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Christmas Tree Regulation Extended for Another Six Months

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the Economy

Policy and Program Announcements

Solid Wood Products

Pest/Disease Occurrences

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Report Highlights:

On May 6, 2010, the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) officially extended Emergency NOM-EM-158-SEMARNAT-2009 for another six months. The extension, which was published in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register), sets the phytosanitary regulations for natural Christmas tree imports and could impact U.S. exports for 2010. SEMARNAT requested an extension last week (please see GAIN Report MX0028, dated April 30, 2010) in order to continue using the same pest lists from 2009, which is more restrictive than the previous Christmas Tree NOM-013-SEMARNAT-2004. No comment period was allowed in 2009 for NOM-EM-158-

SEMARNAT-2009.

Executive Summary:

According to SEMARNAT, the species mentioned in Emergency NOM-EM-158-SEMARNAT-2009 would cause severe damage to Mexico's industry as well as create serious ecological and economic problems if not regulated. Since the circumstances have not changed from last year, SEMARNAT is extending NOM-158 for another six months. This rule sets the phytosanitary regulation for natural Christmas tree imports from species of the genus *Pinus* and *Abies* as well as the species *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, to prevent the entry to the country of the following pests: *Vespula germanica*, *Choristoneura fumiferana*, *Choristoneura occidentalis*, *Deroceras reticulatum*, *Diprion similis*, *Orgyia pseudotsugata*, *Paradiplosis tumifex*, *Grovesiella abieticola*, *Rhabdocline weirii*, *Nalepella ednae*, *Epitrimerus pseudotsugae* and *Phomopsis lokoyae*.

As reported in GAIN Report MX0029 (April 30, 2010), SEMARNAT requested an extension from the Federal Commission for Regulatory Improvement (COFEMER) on April 29, 2010, for the Emergency NOM-158. This regulation is an amendment to NOM-013-SEMARNAT-2004 and adds several extra pests to the original quarantine list. SEMARNAT conducted a pest risk analysis of Christmas tree pests for several months in 2009 and completed its study on November 5, 2009. In response, Emergency NOM-158 was published in the *Diario Oficial* on November 6, 2010, effective the following day.

General Information:

This report summarizes an announcement by the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) published in Mexico's *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register) on May 6, 2010, that extends the Emergency NOM-EM-158-SEMARNAT-2009 for another six months.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

Title: Notice of Extension of the Emergency Official Mexican Regulation NOM-EM-158-SEMARNAT-2009 that sets phytosanitary regulations to natural Christmas tree imports from species of the genus *Pinus* and *Abies* and the species *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, to prevent the entry of the following pests associated to these species: *Vespula germanica*, *Choristoneura fumiferana*, *Choristoneura occidentalis*, *Deroceras reticulatum*, *Diprion similis*, *Orgyia pseudotsugata*, *Paradiplosis tumifex*, *Grovesiella abieticola*, *Rhabdocline weirii*, *Nalepella ednae*, *Epitrimerus pseudotsugae* y *Phomopsis lokoyae*, published on November 6, 2009.

Important Dates:

- 1. Publication Date:** May 6, 2010
- 2. Effective Date:** May 7, 2010

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